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NEWS

Stark County man who traveled to D.C.: 'Yesterday was the first battle of the war'



Edd Pritchard

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As Stark County businessman Doug Wright sees it, patriots stood up for their country and protested peacefully on Wednesday at the U.S. Capitol.

"We didn't burn nothing down. We didn't kill nobody," Wright said Thursday afternoon.

Wright, a Plain Township resident who operates a small shuttle bus company, said he was among nearly 500 Northeast Ohio residents who traveled by bus to attend the protests.

They arrived Wednesday morning near the Capitol in time to watch on video President Donald Trump's speech outside the White House. Wright spent Wednesday in Washington, D.C., before returning home with the caravan.

Wright, 54, said he was at the Capitol, but declined to discuss specifics or say if he entered the building. He did quip about being "beaten up by the cops," but several times said he was part of a peaceful demonstration.

Patriots are working to regain control of the country, said Wright, adding that both major political parties are corrupt.

"They just want control," Wright said of Republican and Democrats. "We're fighting corruption."

That includes contesting the outcome of the Nov. 3 presidential election, which wasn't fair, Wright said. Before the election, Wright was among a group of Trump supporters who for several days rallied for the president outside Stark County Board of Elections offices.

Wright said he still is catching up on news reports about Wednesday's assault on the Capitol. Thousands of people overwhelmed Capitol police, then breached the building. Police say four

people died and more than 60 arrests were made.

The protest has been described as a riot, but Wright disagrees. He acknowledged the protesters pushed and pushed, then entered the Capitol building.

"But now we're called criminals?" he said.

The Capitol is owned by the people of the United States, and while elected officials use the building "it's our office," he said. "We run this country, not them. They work for us."

Wright said protesters tied to Black Lives Matter and other organizations took control of public buildings during the summer and nothing was done to stop them. Meanwhile, patriots were in the Capitol for an hour and they filled the building with tear gas, he said.

"If BLM or antifa were in there they would have burnt that [building] down because that's their MO," Wright said.

The protesters aren't finished, Wright said. He said he's seen that more protests are planned for Jan. 17 near the Capitol.

"It's not about overthrowing the government. It's about creating a new party," Wright said. He believes a patriot party would outnumber the Democrats and Republicans.

Patriots are sick of being cheated, Wright said. "Yesterday wasn't the end. Yesterday was the first battle of the war. I promise you."